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THE TONY GOES TO NEIL PATRICK HARRIS

HE HOSTS A 'BETTER, BEST-OF BROADWAY TONYS SHOW.' PAGES 16-17

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Monday, June 10, 2013 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

Rentals heat up

Real estate. Summer brings an influx of wannabe New Yorkers competing for rental units. **Pro tip.** Experts advise moving fast: Good deals won't last. An industry insider offers tips on scoring a sweet spot. **Find a friend.** Brokers can even help you get a roommate — and thus a better deal. PAGE 02

¡Viva Puerto Rico!

PAGE 06

New Yorkers turned out in droves for the Puerto Rican Day Parade on Sunday. / BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Exposing a scheme for a better world

Contractor outs himself as the NSA surveillance whistleblower. PAGE 07

Muddy good time at Governors

Randall's Island proved to be a great locale for this weekend's Ball. PAGES 13-14

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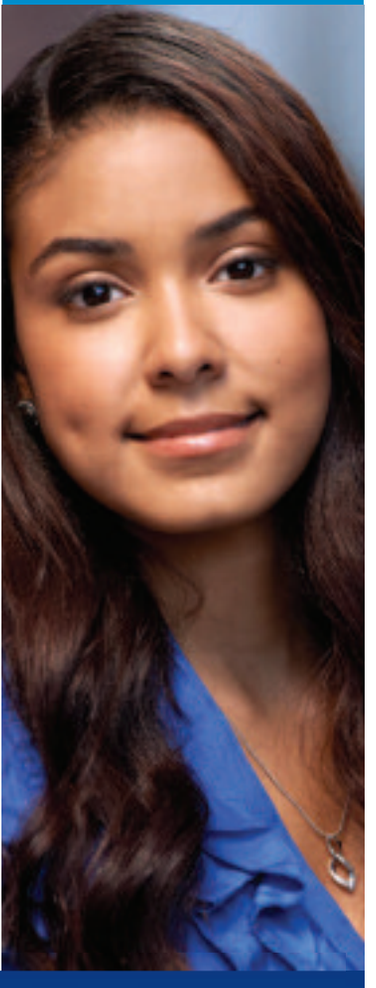

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1 NEWS

Top 3

Trending online at Metro.us

1 VIDEO: PBS gives us a new Mr. Rogers remix

2 VIDEO: Creative Photoshop prank performed at bus stop in Finland

3 VIDEO: Man texts while riding on a car hood in Saudi Arabia

Quoted

"I think a few of them could use a few hours on a bike, if you know what I'm saying."

Anthony Weiner on cops

How to survive the summer rental rush

Real estate. Summer is the most competitive season for rentals, experts say. Vacancies are slim and prices are on the rise.

Hopeful renters may be feeling the heat this summer as mounting temperatures are matched by mounting prices — and seemingly surpassed by the growing numbers of New Yorkers and soon-to-be New Yorkers looking for a place to call home.

Experts say that while summer is traditionally the busiest time of year for the residential rental market, the situation is even more complicated now, as vacancy rates are "hovering barely above 1 percent," according to Citi Habitats president Gary Malin.

"There's not a lot of inventory coming on the market, and prices are starting to escalate again," said Malin.

But don't despair, renters: Malin has some advice for what tenants can do to increase their odds.

Malin recommends starting your search about 30 days from when you want your lease to start, and broker Rory Bolger added that it's best to look during the workday.

"Landlords and management companies don't work on the weekends," Bolger pointed out. "You have much more control during the week."

Bolger recently helped one woman through a real estate struggle. Vesela Pehlivanova spent 25 days in a hotel as she looked for apartments.

"I saw quite a few places and didn't like the majority of them," Pehlivanova said. "Every time I woke up in the morning and realized it wasn't my place, I said to myself, 'Again?'"

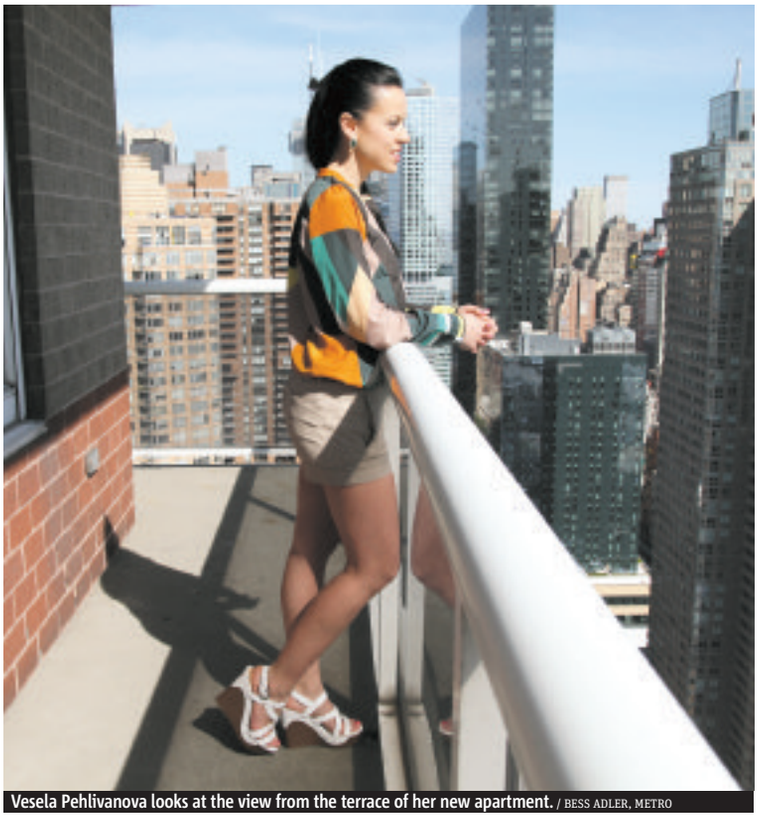
Bolger helped her find her dream apartment in Midtown, as well as roommates so she could afford a nicer place. Bolger said this is a common practice for him.

"In a lot of cases what I end up doing is finding one person who wants an apartment and work with them to find roommates," he said.

Bolger and Malin both urged rental seekers to come prepared and act fast. Having money for a deposit and all the paperwork needed to secure your apartment will be a tremendous help if you find something you love, Malin said.

"In a market like this, there's a chance that the apartment will be gone if you have to scramble for a few hours," he warned.

DANIELLE TCHLOAKIAN
danielle.tchloakian@metro.us



Vesela Pehlivanova looks at the view from the terrace of her new apartment. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Expert Advice

Citi Habitats president Gary Malin urged struggling renters to consider using a broker even if you think your budget is small. "At all ends of the marketplace, there are gems and hidden deals that are hard to find," he said.

- Make your application stand out with something that puts it in a different light than the others. If the apartment is currently empty, say you will take it immediately so the landlord does not lose any rent or offer to pay above the listed price, Malin suggested.
- Malin warned if a place seems too good to be true, it probably is. "Take a deep breath and step back," he advised.

Sexual harassment. Lopez faces two new employee lawsuits

Two former employees, Victoria Burhans and Chloe Rivera, are suing Vito Lopez for sexual harassment in suits that allege Lopez's conduct was enabled by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's "assistance," the NY Post reported.

Burhans alleges that Lopez offered her a tour of the governor's Executive Mansion in Albany if she stayed overnight with him in a "Lincoln Bedroom" situation.

Lopez resigned from the Assembly last month after two reports revealed that he sexually harassed at least eight female staffers.

LAURA SHIN

Mosquitoes

City sprays for West Nile

The New York City Health Department will be releasing non-chemical larvicides into the air around marshes and non-residential sections of Staten Island, the Bronx and Queens to reduce the mosquito population as a precaution against West Nile virus.

BREANNA BISHOP

Arrest

Arrest in Brooklyn break-in

Jayquan Straker, 24, was arrested for a Brooklyn break-in foiled by a 10-year-old boy last week.

The boy picked up a gun, shot at the suspect and missed, police said. A second suspect then fired his gun but also missed.

LAURA SHIN

Killed

Cyclist hit by two taxis

A 25-year-old woman was fatally struck by two taxis while riding her bicycle in East Harlem on Thursday night, police said.

Cops said the cyclist was thrown from her bicycle after being hit by the first taxi and then struck by the second taxi on East 125th Street.

LAURA SHIN

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Blog that guessed Obama victories predicts Quinn win

Election. The blog that foretold both Obama victories says Christine Quinn will win the mayoral election.

Five Thirty Eight, the blog that predicted the results of the last two presidential elections with uncanny accuracy, is now on the record predicting a win for Christine Quinn in the Democratic primary for the mayor's race.

The blog says an analysis of public opinion polls going back to the late 1980s shows that whoever holds the early lead tends to win. Quinn has led in every poll conducted so far this year.

Christine Quinn / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

5

According to the blog Five Thirty Eight, five out of the past six Democratic primaries for mayor have seen the leading candidate during the first six months of polling advance to the general election.

"In five of the past six Democratic primaries for mayor, the candidate who led in an average of polls conducted in the first six months of the election year advanced to the general election," Five Thirty Eight contributor Micah Cohen wrote. "The only exception was in 2009, when then-Representative Anthony D. Weiner led William C. Thompson Jr., the New York City comptroller, by five percentage points but decided not to formally enter the race."

Weiner, a late entry in the 2013 race, came in just five points behind Quinn in the first poll after he announced his campaign.

EMILY JOHNSON
letters@metro.us

NYC supports Turkish protesters

Protesters gather at Zuccotti Park in Lower Manhattan on June 8 in solidarity with the Taksim Square movement and the people of Turkey to protest the government of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. / GETTY IMAGES

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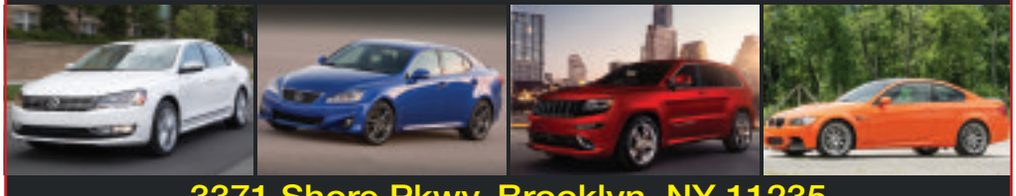

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Cigarettes

Report: Black market smokes on the rise

A Pew report found that New York is the largest importer of smuggled cigarettes — and the burgeoning black market apparently comes as a result of taxes on cigarettes in New York being the highest in the nation.

Just last month, authorities busted a massive interstate cigarette-trafficking ring with alleged connections to Hamas, and last Tuesday, the alleged leader of a cigarette smuggling ring was held on $15 million bail for selling $50 million in untaxed cigarettes across New York City.

BREANNA BISHOP

Glitches

Hearing to come on 911 system issues

The City Council plans to investigate reported delays in response times and review legislation that could modify the city's current method of reporting and responding to emergencies.

Glitches in the new system were recently blamed for a delay in response time to a car crash last week that resulted in the death of a 4-year-old girl.

BREANNA BISHOP

Charged

Cops: Dementia patient lost by nurse

A former nursing home director, Juliet Clifford, allegedly failed to report the disappearance of 74-year-old resident Alan Frazer, according to police.

Clifford allegedly didn't report his disappearance, and falsely claimed Frazer left the nursing home "against medical advice," when speaking with investigators May 30. Frazer, who suffers from dementia, has reportedly been missing since May 26.

BREANNA BISHOP

Green cabs to come to outer NYC boroughs

Taxis. New Yorkers will soon be able to hail apple-green cars throughout the five boroughs.

The new five-borough cabs will be hard to miss. / NYC.GOV

Uptown Manhattan and outer borough residents will be able to hail taxis on the street after an appeals court unanimously upheld a state law authorizing the city's establishment of street hail livery service in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island.

"With this decision, we can finally bring safe, reliable taxi service to the four and a half boroughs that don't currently have it," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Eighteen thousand apple-green taxis will be permitted to pick up hails north of East 96th Street and West 110th Street in Manhattan and anywhere in the other four boroughs. The city also announced on Thursday that it will sell 2,000 yellow-cab medallions, which must be used for handicap-accessible cars. The sale is expected to generate more than $1 billion in revenue for the city.

LAURA SHIN and **BREANNA BISHOP**

Bad weather brings storm of surfers

Surfers at Rockaway Beach tested their skills in some serious waves churned up by Tropical Storm Andrea on Saturday. Remnants of the storm, the first of the hurricane season, caused heavy rain and minor flooding in much of the New York metropolitan area Friday. / GETTY IMAGES

Explosion

Park coming to Gov Island

The tallest building on Governors Island was demolished using more than 200 pounds of dynamite in a controlled explosion yesterday morning. A new park is planned for the site.

EMILY JOHNSON

Terror

'Wild man' loose in SoHo

DNAinfo reported panic in SoHo over a "wild man" terrorizing the area. Richard Pearson, who stands 6-foot-5 and weighs 240 pounds, was charged with felony assault last month.

BREANNA BISHOP

Amenities

Hilton to cut room service

The New York Hilton Midtown confirmed last week that it would end room service. Hilton spokesman Mark Ricci said up to 55 employees could lose their jobs as a result of the decision. **REUTERS**

Schools. Report: Pensions, debt, tech balloon school budget

New York City's budget for public schools will be nearly $25 billion for the 2014 fiscal year, according to a report from the Daily News.

This is $1 billion more than last year's and the highest schools budget in the city's history.

"It's spread in a variety of areas," said Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott. "You'll see a number of allocations to schools to improve the outcome of our students."

Most of the funds will reportedly be allocated to pension costs and debt, but funding will also be used for technical education and career programs and to open 24 charter schools in the fall.

About $165 million of the budget will be used to prepare schools for the Common Core academic standards and the new teacher evaluation plan, and $66 million is intended for tutoring and an updated curriculum to meet national standards, according to reports.

New York City public schools make up more than a third of the city's budget.

Education spending has doubled during the Bloomberg administration, according to the Daily News.

BREANNA BISHOP

Election

According to teachers union President Michael Mulgrew, the endorsement of the 230,000-member United Federation of Teachers would secure a mayoral candidate's victory. "We're about making a mayor, making the winner," Mulgrew said.

Sun greets Puerto Rican Day Parade

It was a colorful weekend in Manhattan as politicians, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, showed some love for one of New York's largest communities with the massive Puerto Rican Day Parade up Fifth Avenue on Sunday. / BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Crime

1 killed, 5 hurt in stabbing

A teenage boy was stabbed to death outside his home and five people were shot in separate incidents in Brooklyn yesterday. The Daily News reports the stabbing could be gambling related. EMILY JOHNSON

Kidnapped

Taken Bronx toddler found

A 3-year-old allegedly kidnapped by his aunt was found safe Sunday, but his aunt was still missing.

Ladavion Brooks was allegedly taken from his stroller in front of his home while in his grandmother's care on Saturday evening, cops said.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

Race

Art spurs debate

Performance art in Union Square last week sparked lively debate as women of color stood with signs inviting passersby to touch their hair.

"You can touch my hair" is the brainchild of Antonia Opiah, the founder of Un'ruly, which promotes the discussion of black hair. EMILY JOHNSON

The Perfect Weekend Getaway

My best friends and I have almost nothing in common. I'm a total Type A adrenaline junkie. Katie is laid back and loves to be pampered. And Claire just wants to party all the time. But somehow all of our differences are what make us so great together. Except when it comes to taking a vacation.

Every year we've tried to find the perfect trip for all three of us, where I can be active and adventurous, Katie can work on her tan and Claire can dance till dawn. But somebody always ended up bored.

Just as we were about to give up, I found the vacation we were looking for in Club Getaway, a "Summer Camp for Grown-Ups". We called and made a reservation for the following weekend.

"Hiking, biking, kayaking, ziplining, waterskiing, trapeze, rock climbing, tennis, golf, wine tasting... all in one weekend!"

Katie, Claire and I met up in Manhattan the following Friday to hop on the 90-minute chartered bus ride to Club Getaway, in the Berkshire Mountains. Half of the people on the bus were Club Getaway regulars and the other half were newbies like us.

At Club Getaway I took lessons in rock climbing and the flying trapeze, went mountain biking and even learned to water ski. I won't lie and say I was the most graceful water skier you've ever seen, but I did manage to stay up after three tries – and having a cute Australian instructor didn't hurt either.

Katie spent most of her time just lounging by the lake with her iPad. Although she did take her first-ever yoga class, along with cooking and wine-tasting classes. She says she was so inspired she might actually use her kitchen. We'll see.

Claire loved that Club Getaway's "Boathouse" had none of what she hates about clubs in New York – a cover, overpriced drinks, or a snobby atmosphere. She was up dancing pretty late on Friday, but managed to wake up in time to hit the massive brunch buffet the next morning. Of course, she bragged that she worked off the three pancakes and omelet by staying active all day. And she actually met the guy she's now dating during the Saturday afternoon softball game.

Even though we often split up to do activities on our own, it was easy for us to meet up throughout the weekend to work in plenty of bonding time. We joined a hike together, met up for meals, danced at the Boathouse each night, and sat around the campfire regaling over the days' events.

I have to say it was perfect. We finally found what we were each looking for in a vacation. We're already checking out clubgetaway.com to plan our next adventure.

Club Getaway, a weekend sports and adventure resort, is located in the Berkshire Mountains of Kent, CT, just 90 minutes from NYC by car or Getaway Bus.

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Surveillance. Defense contractor says he's the whistleblower

A 29-year-old contractor at the U.S. National Security Agency revealed top secret U.S. surveillance programs to alert the public to what is being done in their name, a British newspaper reported yesterday.

Edward Snowden, a former CIA technical assistant who was working at the super-secret NSA as an employee of defense contractor Booz Allen Hamilton, is hiding in a hotel in Hong Kong after leaving the United States with secret documents, the Guardian newspaper reported.

The Guardian published revelations last week that U.S. security services monitored data about phone calls from Verizon and Internet data from large companies such as Google and Facebook. It said Snowden had now asked the newspaper that his identity be disclosed.

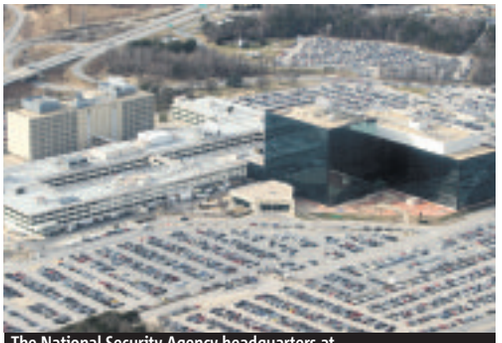
The exposure of the secret programs has triggered widespread debate within the United States and abroad about the vast reach of the NSA, which has expanded its surveillance programs dramatically in the last decade. U.S. officials say the agency operates within the law.

"My sole motive is to inform the public as to that which was done in their name, and that which is done against them," the Guardian quoted Snowden as saying.

"I understand that I will be made to suffer for my actions," it quoted him as saying in a note that accompanied documents he provided to the newspaper. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"I don't want to live in a society that does these sorts of things ... I do not want to live in a world where everything I do and say is recorded. That is not something I am willing to support or live under." **Snowden,** to the Guardian



The National Security Agency headquarters at Fort Meade, Md., as seen from above. / GETTY IMAGES

Spying

U.S. snooping revelations cause trouble for allies

Revelations of a huge, secret U.S. Internet spying program have raised awkward questions for allies, forced to explain whether they let Washington spy on their citizens or benefited from snooping that would be illegal at home.

U.S. officials have confirmed the existence of the secret program, codenamed PRISM. According to documents leaked to the Washington Post and Britain's Guardian newspaper, the program has given them access to emails, Web chats and other communications from companies such as Google, Facebook, Twitter and Skype. **REUTERS**

U.S. surveillance

Lawmakers urge review of domestic spying, Patriot Act

Lawmakers yesterday called for a review of the government's monitoring of phone and Internet activities, and Democratic Sen. Mark Udall urged a reopening of the Patriot Act, the post-Sept. 11 law that gave intelligence agencies broader surveillance powers.

President Barack Obama's administration has come under criticism after the disclosure that the super-secret National Security Agency has been collecting massive amounts of data from private companies on phone calls and emails.

Sen. Mark Udall / GETTY IMAGES

As lawmakers debated the implications of the U.S. surveillance programs that were first reported in Britain's Guardian and The Washington Post, the Guardian identified a 29-year-old former CIA technical worker as the source of the leaks about the spy agencies. **REUTERS**

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Gitmo. Sen. McCain says support growing to close military prison

Republican Sen. John McCain said yesterday that there is increasing public support for closing the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and moving detainees to a facility on the U.S. mainland.

"There's renewed impetus. And I think that most Americans are more ready," McCain, who went to Guantanamo last week, told CNN.

McCain said he and fellow Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, are working with the Obama administration to relocate detainees to a maximum-security prison in Illinois.

"We're going to have to look at the whole issue, including giving them more periodic review of their cases," McCain, of Arizona, said. REUTERS

Tax scandal

IRS testimony shows no White House involvement

A Internal Revenue Service manager told congressional investigators that he and a local colleague decided to give conservative groups the extra scrutiny that has prompted weeks of political controversy

In a transcript released yesterday by a Democratic congressman, the manager said he and an underling set aside "Tea Party" and "patriot" group applications because they posed a new precedent. REUTERS

Trayvon Martin murder case goes to trial in Fla.

Zimmerman was arrested only after a national outcry from both ordinary citizens and the nation's top civil rights leaders. / GETTY IMAGES

Zimmerman. He faces up to life in prison if convicted of second-degree murder in the case.

Jury selection begins today in the murder trial of neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman, who shot and killed unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin in 2012 and then famously walked free for 44 days, triggering nationwide protests.

Lawyers estimate the long-awaited trial will last four to eight weeks. Much of that time is expected to be spent picking a six-person jury that can be open-minded despite extensive publicity about some of the explosive issues, including racial profiling and self-defense, surrounding the case.

"They're going to have a tough time picking a jury. At this point, who doesn't know who Trayvon Martin is, and who George Zimmerman is?" said David Weinstein, a former state prosecutor and criminal defense lawyer.

More than 200 journalists have signed up to cover the trial. A tight blanket of security will be enforced by federal, state and local police in and around the courthouse in Sanford, Fla., near Orlando.

Even spectators in barricaded "public assembly zones" on the courthouse lawn will be subject to search. Four seats inside the courtroom will be rotated among local pastors, who will monitor the trial and be ready to help calm any racial tensions. REUTERS

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Suspected ricin-laced letter to CIA located in Washington state

Ricin. A highly lethal poison made from castor beans, it can enter the body through ingestion, inhalation or injection.

Postal workers in Spokane, Wash., this weekend retrieved a wayward letter suspected of containing the deadly poison ricin that vanished for several weeks after it was sent from Washington state to a CIA address that does not receive mail, the FBI said.

The envelope resembled four ricin-laced letters postmarked May 13 from Spokane that had addresses penned in red ink, FBI agent Frank Harrill, an agency spokesman, said in a statement.

Matthew Ryan Buquet, 38, of Spokane was charged last month with mailing a threatening communication in connection with one of those four letters, which was sent to a federal judge but intercepted by a court employee during a screening process.

A "determination will be made at some point" about whether to charge Buquet with sending any additional ricin-laced letters in the batch, Harrill said.

The FBI has said the case is not related to two other recent arrested involving ricin-tainted envelopes sent to elected officials. Actress Shannon Rogers Guess Richardson of New Boston, Texas, was charged Friday with sending ricin-laced letters to President Barack Obama and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. And martial arts instructor James Everett Dutschke, of Tupelo, Miss., was arrested April 27 on suspicion of mailing three earlier such letters to the president and others.

The letters Richardson is accused of mailing contained menacing references to the U.S. debate on gun control.

The FBI has not discussed a motive in the Spokane case. REUTERS

Lab testing

It will be sent next to a bioforensic lab to determine whether it, too, contains ricin, as did the other four letters in the batch from Washington state, the FBI said.

Snout-less dog gets the homecoming of a hero

After eight months of treatment in the United States, a shepherd mix who lost her snout saving two girls returned yesterday to her owner's home in the southern Philippines, earning the title of "dog ambassador of goodwill." / GETTY IMAGES

Shooting

Fifth victim dies after California shooting rampage

A college student shot during a gunman's rampage in Santa Monica, Calif., died yesterday, the school said, two days after her father and three other people were killed in the same attack.

Marcela Franco, 26, was one of the final victims of the gunman's spree, which began Friday morning when he fatally shot his brother and father and apparently set their house on fire, police said.

The gunman then hijacked a woman's car, forcing her at gunpoint to drive toward Santa Monica College, while he fired at people through the window, they said. REUTERS

Turkish leader: We are running out of patience

Tayyip Erdogan, left, and his wife Emine wave to supporters from a bus before he addressed the crowd. / AFP, GETTY IMAGES

Turkey. Erdogan spoke to thousands of supporters at an airport yesterday.

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told a rally of thousands of flag-waving supporters yesterday that his patience with anti-government protests had its limits, while tens of thousands flooded an Istanbul square demanding his resignation.

The majority Muslim but constitutionally secular nation has been shaken by a week of fierce protests, which have exposed fault lines between a religiously conservative heartland fiercely supportive of Erdogan and a secular middle class who fear authoritarianism.

Addressing crowds of cheering followers at Ankara airport, Erdogan accused the protesters of drinking beer in mosques and insulting women wearing headscarves.

"With our government, our party and most importantly our nation, it is we who have defended, and are most strongly defending, democracy, law and freedoms," he told crowds chanting "We are ready to sacrifice our lives for you Tayyip." REUTERS

Quoted

"We were patient, we will be patient; but there is an end to patience."

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan
On how long his government will tolerate protests

South Africa. Country prays after Mandela returns to hospital

South Africans prayed for Nelson Mandela's recovery yesterday as the 94-year-old former president spent a second day in hospital with a recurring lung infection.

Mandela, a global symbol of triumph over adversity and of reconciliation who became South Africa's first black leader in 1994 after the end of apartheid, was taken to the hospital early yesterday when his already frail health worsened.

It is his fourth hospital stay since December, and the government said his condition was "serious." During previous hospital visits it had highlighted his "good spirits." REUTERS

Cyber attacks

Israeli PM says Iran targeting computers

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran and its Palestinian and Lebanese allies of carrying out "nonstop" cyberattacks on major computer systems in his country. He gave no details on the number of attacks but said "vital national systems" had been targeted.

"Despite the nonstop attacks on us, you hear only about a few of them because we thwart most of them," he added. REUTERS

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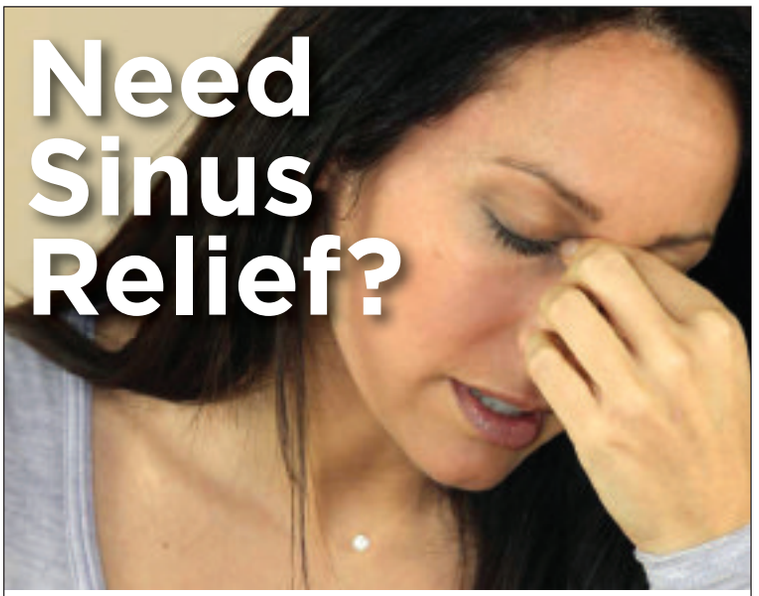

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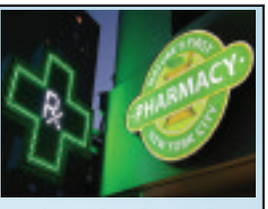

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Forbes ranked the best schools by their return on a student's investment. / VSTOCK

What makes education such a good investment?

Rankings. Focus on the student to determine what makes the (financially) smartest college education.

Recently, Forbes Magazine released its list of "25 Colleges with the Best Return on Investment" — an opening act for its annual "America's Top Colleges List," which will be released later this summer.

Since Forbes released its first college rankings in 2008, the lists have become increasingly popular among students and parents and, in turn, coveted by colleges. But Forbes actually has very little to do with the creation of the lists or the methodology behind them.

The Center for College Affordability and Productivity — a conservative Washington, D.C., think-tank — creates the rankings for Forbes. The group generally advocates for market-based solutions to problems in higher education, and their rankings were developed in part to emphasize the student's role as a consumer.

"The U.S. News [and World Report college ranking] relies more on reputation. A fairly large component of their index is based on questionnaires with leaders of institutions," says Richard Vedder, the director of CCAP. "We wanted to be more student-centered than other rankings. We're interested in whether students feel the courses they're taking are interesting. Do they get jobs after graduation? What kind of money do they make? Do they obtain positions of high responsibility in our society? What's the debt load they incur?"

The 2013 list will be most valuable for prospective STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students, but may be less applicable in other fields. In terms of a baseline calculation of tuition dollars versus starting salary, not many fields can compete with STEM. The top 10 colleges are all either technical or engineering schools.

"I don't know that this list is more valuable than the other ones out there. It's just one more piece of information," says Susan Adams, a reporter at Forbes. "What distinguishes this one is that it looks at one particular factor: return on investment. It wasn't surprising to me that the schools at the top of the list were heavy on engineering and technical education."

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

Ranked

The three U.S. schools with the best return on investment, according to Forbes Magazine and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity:

1. Harvey Mudd College
2. California Institute of Technology
3. Polytechnic University of New York University

Weighted on what?

The 2013 "America's Top Colleges" list will be released by Forbes Magazine this summer. Here are the three most heavily weighted factors in determining the rankings:

1. Student evaluations from Ratemyprofessors.com
2. Salary of alumni from Payscale.com
3. Listings of alumni in "Who's Who in America"

Quoted

"I don't know that this list is more valuable than the other ones out there. It's just one more piece of information. What distinguishes this one is that it looks at one particular factor: return on investment."

Forbes reporter Susan Adams, on the "25 Colleges with the Best Return on Investment" list

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Sarah Jessica Parker's shoe line

Watch out, Ivanka Trump, Rachel Bilson, Halle Berry, Fergie, Jessica Simpson, Santana and the seemingly endless list of celebrities with a shoe line — Sarah Jessica Parker is stepping into the business.

The actress, who famously portrayed the shoe-obsessed Carrie Bradshaw in "Sex and the City," is launching her own line of footwear, trenches and purses. The line, called SJP, will be available next year at Nordstrom. According to Vogue, she is teaming up with George Malkemus, the CEO of Manolo Blahnik, for the line, because she is basically going to milk Carrie Bradshaw until there isn't a drop left.

As for the SJP line, "It's sort of soup to nuts," she tells the magazine. "You put on a shoe, and you put on a coat, and you wear a bag and, on the outside, when you're walking down the street, they really can tell the same story about yourself."

And that story is: You have a lot of money (or at least a high credit line), as the shoes range from $200 to $300, and the bags are around $700.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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I want a White Russian with these two, right?

Jake Gyllenhaal dressed as The Dude from "The Big Lebowski" to give the Original Dude trophy to Jeff Bridges at Spike TV's Guys Choice Awards 2013 on Saturday in Culver City, Calif. Other celebrities on hand were Ben Affleck, who accepted the Guy of the Year award from Clint Eastwood, and Jennifer Aniston, who gave away the Funniest M.F. award to friend Jimmy Kimmel. Check out all the winners and The Dude wannabes for yourself when the awards show airs Wednesday at 9 p.m. on Spike TV. / GETTY IMAGES

Meet Russell Brand's new lady friend

Russell Brand has been spotted out and about with Alessandra Balazs, the 23-year-old daughter of hotelier Andre Balazs (for you gossips out there, Papa Balazs' squeeze is Chelsea Handler, so the family has a thing for comics). Alessandra has been dropping hints that the pair may be dating. A source tells the Daily Mail that they are serious. "They have been quietly dating for months now, and have even gone on holidays together."

Stars and vodka at Governors Ball kickoff

It was all fun and rain on an overcast and cold Thursday night when Skyy Vodka hosted an exclusive kickoff party aboard a yacht for the three-day Governors Ball music festival. Anna Kendrick, Chace Crawford, Olivia Palermo, Aziz Ansari and David Cross were some of the celebs who got their sea legs. Crawford and Kendrick, co-stars of "What to Expect When You're Expecting," caught up over a game of ping-pong (and promotional shots like the one at left), while Ansari hung out with Cross and James Murphy from the now-defunct LCD Soundsystem (Murphy later spun some tunes to the vodka- and rain-soaked revelers). The act Palermo said she most wanted to see? Kanye West.

— For a review of the three-day music festival held on Randall's Island in New York, which featured acts such as Kings of Leon, Guns N' Roses, Nas and more, go to www.metro.us. Or for pictures from the fest, just turn the page.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

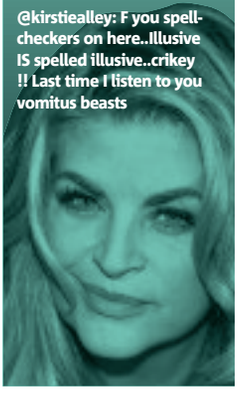
We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Harry Styles is very tired, Tom Arnold is adjusting to fatherhood and Kirstie Alley is arguing with her followers.

@Harry_Styles: Jet lag took over, I fell asleep on the floor in my clothes. A meter from the bed. So close.

@TomArnold: I swear my only goal in life right now is to learn to feed, burp, change and swaddle with the speed and efficiency of a Nascar pit crew.

@kirstiealley: F you spell-checkers on here..Illusive IS spelled illusive..crikey !! Last time I listen to you vomitus beasts



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Allo, Governors

Ms. Mr.

1 **Lizzy Plapinger** has been on our ones-to-watch list since we took in her band, **Ms. Mr.**, at CMJ last fall. But her look is only a part of why you need to check out Ms. Mr. immediately.

Guns N' Roses

2 While we're looking at redheads, here's one who doesn't show the top of his head very often: **Axl Rose** put aside the cane he is so often photographed using (mainly to hold himself up). His hired Guns brought the rock to close out Saturday.

Azealia Banks

3 Looking like her wardrobe was designed by Nerf, **Azealia Banks** can turn out a deceptively fierce performance, which is quite the opposite of Nerf, actually.

Kendrick Lamar

4 His album is "good kid, m.A.A.d city," but **Kendrick Lamar** looked more like a good creature from a m.A.A.d lagoon when he performed on Saturday.

Erykah Badu

5 With what may be the least subtle name for a back-up band ever, **Erykah Badu and the Cannabinoids** brought Badu-ism to the Ball on Friday night.

Icona Pop

6 The women of **Icona Pop**, from left, Caroline Hjelt and Aino Jawo, aren't afraid to get dirty. If you check out this pic online, you'll see Hjelt's muddy legs. You can practically hear her Brit accent, saying the catchy chorus of their hit, "I Love It." GETTY IMAGES

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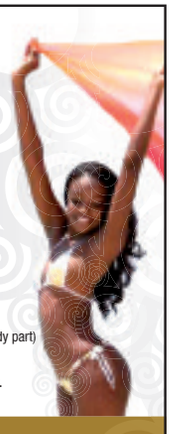

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TV watch list

The cast of "Street Outlaws" apparently likes fake mustaches. / DISCOVERY CHANNEL

DRAMA

'Hit the Floor'

Is it weird that, against our better judgment, we're sort of totally into this show about a pro basketball dance team and all their slutty drama? Don't answer that. **9 P.M., VH1**

TALK SHOW

'Chelsea Lately'

Lauren Conrad (the chick from "The Hills," the boring one) talks about her newest book. She wrote a book? She wrote more than one book? **11 P.M., E!**

REALITY

'Street Outlaws'

This is the first episode of a series that sounds a lot like "Fast & Furious: The TV Show." Too bad Vin Diesel isn't in it. **SERIES PREMIERE,**

10 P.M., DISCOVERY

REALITY

'The Real Housewives of Orange County'

The pack of randy old wives packs up and heads to Mexico to try and tan themselves a deeper shade of orange — and to bicker, of course. **9 P.M., BRAVO**

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO

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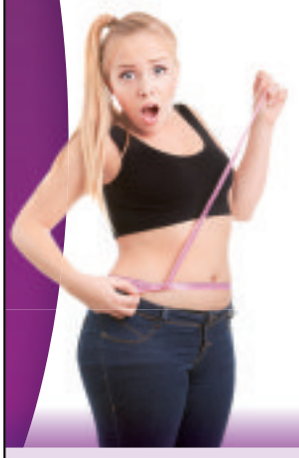

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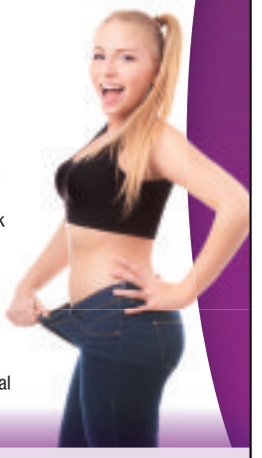

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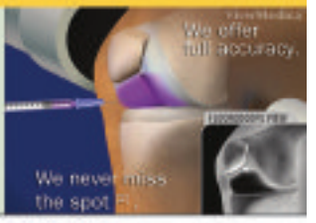

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Broadway is

Tony Awards. Neil Patrick Harris opened up last night's awards show with a bang.

Neil Patrick Harris and Mike Tyson? Just another great Tonys show. / ANDREW H. WALKER, GETTY IMAGES

For the fourth (nonconsecutive) year, consummate host Neil Patrick Harris helmed the Tony Awards. The 67th annual ceremonies kicked off with an opening number dedicated to the many children who are currently taking the stage nightly on the Great White Way, ranging from the four young girls who share the lead in "Matilda" (who jointly received Tony Honors for Excellence in the Theatre) to the orphans of "Annie" and seemingly dozens of others. Harris sang of "so many child actors high on Red Bull and endorphins" and wondered, "Is there a Tonys daycare where all of you go?"

The first trophy of the night went to Courtney B. Vance for Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play for "Lucky Guy." Later, Judith Light won as the featured

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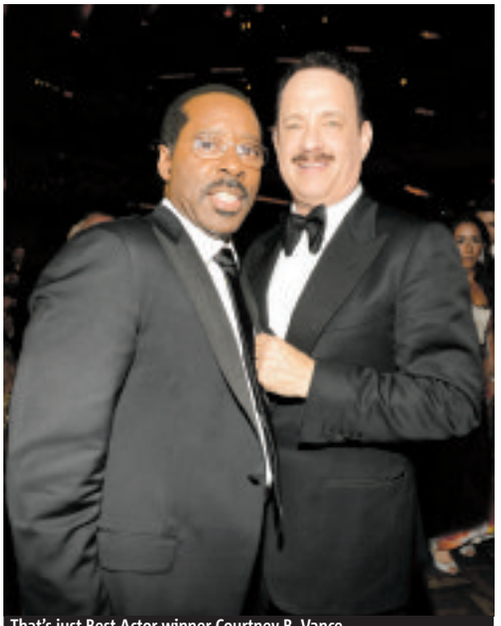
getting bigger

actress in the same category for "The Assembled Parties." Other standouts as of press time were technical wins for "The Nance" (costume design and sound design of a play) and "Kinky Boots" (sound and orchestration for a musical). "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella" took home a Best Costume Design Award, while Dennis Kelly won for writing the book to "Matilda."

Big-name presenters included Scarlett Johansson, Alan Cumming, Liam Neeson, Oliver Platt, Zachary Quinto and Audra McDonald. But most of the evening's awards were given out by actors currently onstage on Broadway, in full costume, including the current leads Guy and Girl from last year's big winner, "Once." Mike Tyson (present) and Shia LaBeouf (not present) were lampooned for the former's one-man tribute show and the latter's sudden departure from "Orphans" this season.

Live performances included a mash-up of songs from "Matilda" (sporting 12 nominations, including for Best Musical), "Bring It On" (two nods) and "Cinderella" (nine nominations). Diane Paulus won the award for Best Direction of a Musical, for "Pippin."



That's just Best Actor winner Courtney B. Vance posing with some movie actor or something at last night's Tonys. / KEVIN MAZUR, WIREIMAGE

Online

For a list of all the winners, visit www.metro.us

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
tmichelle.murphy@metro.us

Who Decides What is Right and Wrong??

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven..."
Matthew 7:21

Moral issues are debated in social, religious and political settings. Who decides what is right and wrong? The president, the church, the majority, the individual? None of the above -- if God exists, has spoken and holds people accountable. If you want to know what is right, don't ask for my opinion, look in the word of God. Let's study the word together!

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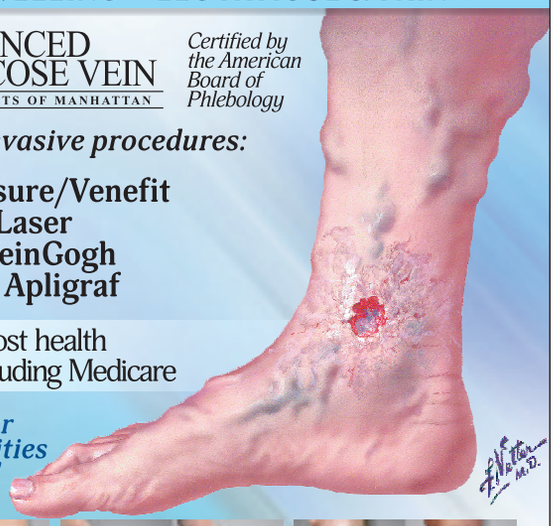

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America purged this weekend

Americans chose to spend their weekend with this charming fellow, from "The Purge." / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Box office. Ethan Hawke trounced Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson.

Low-budget horror film "The Purge" scared up $36.4 million in ticket sales to lead the domestic box office in its first week in domestic theaters, zooming past the car-racing action film "Fast & Furious 6."

"The Internship," a comedy starring Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson based on the antics of slobs in search of a job at Internet giant Google, sold $18.1 million in tickets to finish fourth, according to studio estimates of sales at U.S. and Canadian theaters.

The film reunited Vaughn and Wilson, who teamed to make "Wedding Crashers" in 2005. According to Boxofficemojo.com, that movie generated $209.3 million in domestic ticket sales.

The duo's latest effort was projected by industry experts to gross a modest $17 million in ticket sales.

"The Purge," made for $3 million by the producer of the low-budget "Paranormal Activity" horror series, stars Ethan Hawke and Lena Headey. In a story about the United States in 2022, the government reduces crime by allowing almost all illegal acts to go unpunished during a 12-hour "purge" period.

Part science fiction, part horror, "The Purge" was dismissed by critics but eagerly awaited by horror fans. Industry experts had forecast that it would sell $20 million worth of tickets.

"Fast & Furious 6," of the series starring Vin Diesel, racked up $19.8 million to take second place, bringing its total since Memorial Day to nearly $202.9 million domestically and $584.6 million globally. In third place, the comedy heist caper "Now You See Me" continued its stronger-than-expected showing, with $19.5 million at U.S. and Canadian theaters, finishing in third place.

The post-apocalyptic "After Earth," starring Will Smith and his teenage son Jaden, continued its weak showing at the U.S. and Canadian box office with $11.2 million. The film has generated $46.6 million in total domestic sales — Will Smith's weakest performance since the 1993 film "Made in America," which grossed $44.9 million, according to Boxoffice mojo.com.

"After Earth" did perform strongly overseas, opening with $45.5 million in 60 territories over the weekend. **REUTERS**

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Zen In The City

GABRIELLE BERNSTEIN

WWW.GABBYB.TV

Gabrielle Bernstein is the author of "Spirit Junkie."

TURN YOUR TENSION UPSIDE DOWN (LITERALLY)

One afternoon, I was hanging out with my friend Jenny in my office (which also acts as a yoga Zen den). Out of nowhere, Jenny got into a headstand. Jenny's an avid yogi, and she's known for her love of the practice — but I was a bit confused by her strong desire to be in a headstand. While upside down, Jenny explained that doing headstands helped her turn her mood around. Whenever she felt stagnant or blocked, doing some kind of inversion greatly supported her transition into a higher state of consciousness.

So rather than watch her while she revitalized her energy, I decided to join in on the action. I went into a headstand against the wall for support. Within a minute, I felt an energy rush. All my stagnant energy seemed to be literally turned upside down, and I started to feel more alive.

As time went on, I made inversions a daily routine. In addition to the supported headstand, I turned to plow pose. Both of these inversions are pretty easy to move into whenever you need a boost. I find plow pose a lot easier for people who are new to yoga. You can do this pose on your bedroom floor, outside on the grass or anywhere there is a soft surface.

Your perspective might change when you get topsy-turvy. GETTY IMAGES

Practice an inversion for one minute or more, and you will receive great benefits. This simple practice can turn your bad mood, stress or foggy mind around and recharge your energy. Inversions increase blood flow and improve concentration, memory and awareness.

Inversions also improve digestion and elimination — many yogis suggest inversions to overcome constipation. Another health benefit is that they promote lymphatic drainage and blood purification. The lymphatic system clears toxins from the tissues and supports your overall immunity. The reason you feel so rejuvenated after an inversion is because the pose is detoxifying.

Most importantly, inversions will lift your spirit and relieve depression. When you increase your circulation and send oxygen to the brain, you release neurotransmitters and endorphins while balancing your hormones.

Turn your blocks upside down with an inversion for one minute (or more) a day.

Plow pose

Move into a shoulder stand: Lie on your back, and press your legs straight up overhead. Exhale and bend from the hip joints to slowly lower your toes to the floor behind your head. Keep your torso perpendicular to the floor and your legs fully extended. Lightly drop your toes to the floor, and lift your thighs and tailbone toward the ceiling. Draw your chin away from the breastbone and soften your throat.

To enhance the posture, you can press your hands against the back torso and press your back up toward the ceiling. You can use your hands for support, or you can release them away from your back and stretch your arms out behind you on the floor.

To exit the pose, drop your hands onto your back again, and raise your legs into a shoulder stand. Exhale your way down to the ground.

If you have back, neck or any structural problems, skip this exercise. / GETTY IMAGES

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Make someone's day with the help of KIND Snacks. They're setting up a flower installation in the Chelsea Triangle at 14th Street and Ninth Avenue today, where you can pick a flower (and a KIND bar!) to dole out to a friend, loved one or stranger. Can't make it? The installation moves to General Worth Square (5th Avenue between 24th and 25th sts.) tomorrow. Come by either location from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Free summer fitness in NYC

Exercise. No cash? Hit up one of these gratis workouts.

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Downward Dog Days of Summer: Free Outdoor Yoga Classes at Exhale

Exhale Mind Body Spa is hosting a donation-based yoga class each month, with proceeds benefitting the Meatpacking District Improvement Association. These outdoor yoga classes are held on the cobblestone streets of Gansevoort Plaza between Hudson and Ninth avenues. Class times range from 7:15 a.m.-6:45 p.m. Mark your calendar for June 19, July 18, Aug. 15 and Sept. 19.
18 Ninth Ave., 212-660-6733, www.exhalespa.com

Shaolin Five Animal Kung Fu in Riverside Park

Shaolin Five Animal Kung Fu is promoting self-defense as a fun and stress-reducing fitness activity with free weekly kung fu classes in Riverside Park. Every Saturday from 1 p.m.-3 p.m., instructor Sifu Adam Chertoff, who has more than 30 years of kung fu experience, integrates modern approaches with traditional forms of the martial arts. The program runs through Oct. 26, weather permitting.
Riverside Park (meet at the 108th Street entrance at 12:45 p.m.), 212-942-8909, www.shaolinfive animals.org

Summer of Fitness Exercise Series in Hudson River Park

Whether you're into Pilates, yoga or you need a more intense boot-camp workout, Hudson River Park has a diverse lineup of free summer exercise programs. Activewear brand Lole and fitness concierge Fitist sponsor classes held at Pier 25 (North Moore Street and the West Side Highway) on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., through Aug. 20. On Wednesdays at Pier 64 (23rd Street and the Hudson River), Shape Up NYC offers Nia classes, a fusion of marital arts, dance and yoga, and on Thursdays at Pier 46 (Christopher Street and the Hudson River), they do Pilates. Classes take place from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and run through Aug. 22. Get more info at ***www.hudsonriverpark.org.***

Outdoor Rise NYC

From June 17-23, Outdoor Rise, NYC's first outdoor adventure festival, is providing more than 60 free events in all five boroughs. You'll enjoy events like rock climbing, yoga, biking and more. All events are free; register at ***www.outdoorrise.com.***

CHRIS LONGO
letters@metro.us

Kombucha. Everyone's drinking it, but maybe they shouldn't be

KOMBUCHA "WILL NOT NECESSARILY CURE TWO PEOPLE OF THE SAME CONDITION," CHILDS SAYS.

Touted as a probiotic, a cancer cure, an acne remedy, an energy booster and a whole lot more, devotees claim kombucha, a fermented effervescent tea, is a miracle drink. Some, however, are unimpressed.

"There has been no clinical research done on kombucha that proves any health benefit whatsoever," says registered dietitian Robin Barrie Kaiden. "There are claims that it helps digestion [and] the liver, prevents cancer and improves the immune system, but there's no definite evidence."

Jessica Childs founded Kombucha Brooklyn "after falling in love with the flavor and effects," she says. "A large number of people experience relief from stomach ailments as a result of drinking kombucha. She touts the drink as being correlated to "a reduction in bad cholesterol, a limiting effect on blood sugar spikes and a calming of acne vulgaris."

But Kaiden remains unimpressed with such claims, and warns that its acidity could have a detrimental effect. "Anyone with a sensitive stomach or colitis could be in trouble [drinking it]," says the nutrition counselor. And as for B-vitamins (good for mood and energy), Kaiden thinks it's a poor source.

"If you need B-vitamins, take a supplement," she says. "If you need a healthy drink, drink water."

Though Childs believes that "kombucha is not a cure-all," she does say: "The body is a complex system, and kombucha offers nutrients and support to that system."

The skinny

Kombucha contains yeasts and bacteria that produce natural acids after fermentation, including butyric acid, which is linked to preventing colon cancer; gluconic acid, which is thought to benefit anemia; lactic acid, which aids brain function; and oxalic acid, which is found naturally in rhubarb, but can be toxic in high concentration. This fall, Kombucha Brooklyn will publish "Kombucha: The Amazing Probiotic Tea that Cleanses, Heals, Energizes and Detoxifies."

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

Add some om into the office

Include some om in your workday. / GOODSHOOT

Meditation. The corporate world is embracing mindfulness meditation in the office — and reaping the rewards.

Your business's productivity grows when employees increase focus, improve decision-making, unlock creativity and improve teamwork skills — all qualities enhanced by mindfulness meditation practices. In 1995, Mirabai Bush helped found the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, to explore how mindfulness practices, long used in alternative healing, might affect other sectors of American life. The Center developed programs working with lawyers and judges, social justice activists, higher-education organizations and journalists. But it is Bush's work with businesses — like Google, National Grid, Monsanto and General Mills — that's really taking off. We asked her why.

Isn't it surprising that the corporate world is so open to meditation?
Well, successful businesses are extremely pragmatic. They'll do anything if it works. And the bottom line is measurable, unlike in other organizations. Also, in the last 10 years, there has been quite a lot of research on meditation's effects on the brain. All of this is interesting to people in business.

Which practices do companies find most effective?
It depends. We tailor workshops to an organization's needs. For instance, at Google, we realized that these very smart and competitive people had been in front of screens for most of their lives. They're good at algorithms, but not necessarily at working together. So we set up practices that develop awareness of yourself and others and appreciation for others. It's since been taught at Google headquarters in New York, Zurich, Beijing and Dublin. More than 1,000 engineers have gone through the program.

What's next? If companies are taking 101 now, what's the graduate-level course?
I've started teaching compassion meditations, which I'd at first thought would require too much vulnerability.

You mentioned that companies cite bottom lines, but what, to you, is the real payoff?
There are deeper benefits. If you pay attention to your breath for 20 minutes, you watch everything in your mind arise and fall away over and over again: You begin to appreciate constant change.

— Mirabai Bush's guided-meditation CD is available at Morethansound.net/store/

JANE BORDEN
letters@metro.us

The research

- **Who.** A team from Massachusetts General Hospital, led by Sara Lazar
- **Published.** Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging in 2011
- **What.** After eight weeks of daily mindfulness-meditation practice, researchers detected increased gray matter in the hippocampus (an area key to learning and memory, compassion and introspection) and decreased gray matter in the amygdala (an area integral to our experience of stress and anxiety).
- **Who.** Researchers from Dalian University of Technology in China, led by Yi-Yuan Tang
- **Published.** Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2010
- **What.** After 11 hours of integrative body-mind training, brain-imaging devices detected changes in fibers connecting various brain regions.

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EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS: By the last day of the application period you must meet the following requirements:
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2. One year of full-time experience as a supervisor, or Automotive Service Advisor.
For the journey-level experience in "1" above to be credited, it must be preceded by one of the following:
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B. Graduation from a recognized trade school or technical school, approved by a state's Department of Education or comparable agency, with a major course of study in automotive mechanics or a closely related field totaling 600 hours; **OR**
C. Graduation from a vocational high school, approved by a state's Department of Education or comparable agency, with a major course of study in automotive mechanics, or a closely related field; **OR**
D. Graduation from an accredited college or university with an AAS degree or higher in automotive mechanics or a closely related field. Accreditation must be by a regional, national, professional or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting body by the U.S. Secretary of Education and by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
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Horoscope

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Two interrelated projects might have good potential for profit if they're handled in tandem. Try to see the big picture, and act accordingly.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. A clever friend might discuss a new idea. If you believe it to be a good one and there's room for you to share in it, do so.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. We all have varied roles to play in life. You've been a giver for a while — now it's time to start receiving.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. If you take an old venture apart, you should be able to discover new ways to make it profitable. Don't be afraid to get a little messy.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Your accomplishments will not only be for yourself, but for the benefit of others. Your efforts will bear fruit.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Usually, what we know is more significant than who we know. However, when it comes to the present cycle, your social contacts will be of vital importance.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. A casual acquaintance might ask for help sorting out a problem. Don't hesitate to ask for a fee if it falls in your domain.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. An alliance has an excellent chance of being successful. Your instincts will tell you who will be productive and who won't.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. You're presently in a cycle where good things could come without much effort. Reap the benefit, but don't take anything for granted.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. It isn't likely you will feel comfortable if you're allowed to play only a minor role in a big project. You belong up front.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Your ability to capably balance several endeavors at the same time gives you an edge. Don't waste it.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. It can be unwise to change your mind at the last minute, but there are plenty of times when it's necessary.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

1	7			2				
		4			1			6
8			5				2	
	2	5	3				9	1
6				5				8
4	9				7	2	3	
	4				2			3
9			6			5		
				4			1	7

6					9		1	
5			1			8		
1			4	6			2	
		4		7			8	
	8		6		4		5	
	9			8		7		
	1			4	6			5
		6			8			3
	5		3					8

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

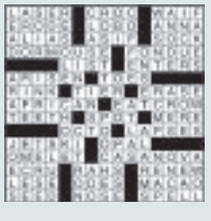
Across

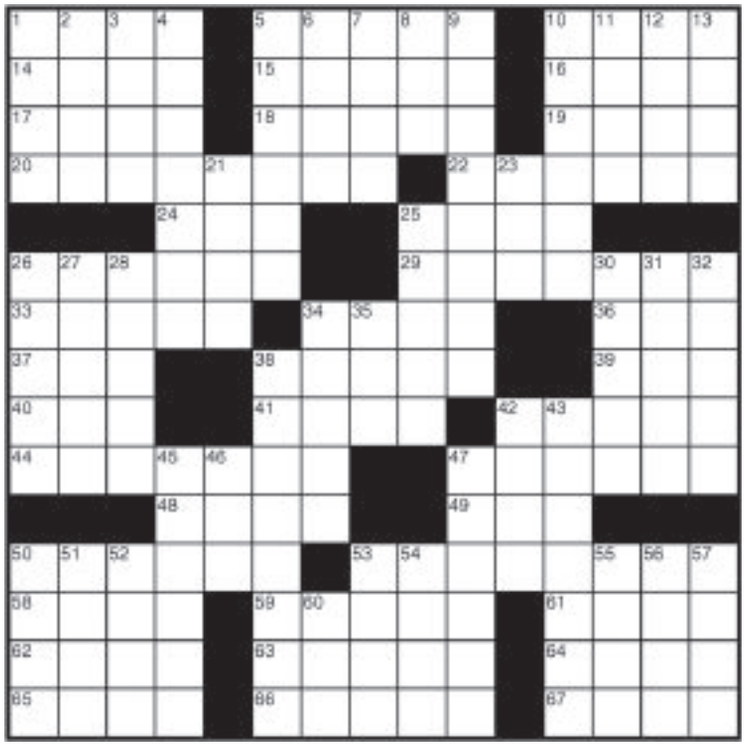
1 Barking noises
5 Chocolate substitute
10 Rugged cliff
14 Froth
15 Romance, in France
16 Long, easy stride
17 Tibet's setting
18 Part of MGM
19 Part of the range
20 Vaquero's boss
22 Most sensible
24 Gemsbok cousin
25 A woodwind
26 Really fast
29 Bon-voyage party (hyph.)
33 Sniffles
34 Customs request
36 Ms. Peeples of TV
37 Boxing great
38 Permissible
39 Horror-film street
40 — -di-dah
41 NYC theater award
42 Fossil rock
44 Alaskan bay
47 Lightened up
48 Bering Sea birds
49 — -de-sac
50 Surroundings
53 Like a brook
58 Norse Zeus
59 Locality
61 — hygiene
62 Siesta
63 Delicate fabric
64 Roman moralist
65 See
66 Bounding main
67 Chest gripper

Down

1 Out of range
2 Diva — Ponselle
3 Gladly, old-style
4 Walloped
5 Dropped in (2 wds.)
6 From the U.S.
7 — -Rooter
8 Not just my
9 Cow
10 Store sign
11 Wander freely
12 Jungle swingers
13 Courteous chap
21 Coal scuttles
23 Type of microscope
25 Davis of "Evening Shade"
26 Cut too short
27 Not equatorial
28 Yale of Yale
30 Shaquille of the NBA
31 Monsieur's daughter
32 Widely known
34 Intuitions
35 Here, for monsieur
38 Admire (3 wds.)
42 Gloating
43 Small rise
45 Delicate
46 Clamor
47 Wire mesh
50 Extra
51 "Et tu" time
52 Kiddie talk
53 Nor'easter
54 Stanford rival
55 Baha'i origin
56 Its HQ is Brussels
57 Lump of jelly, say
60 Jean- — Picard

Weekend's answer





Letters

Looking better all the time

I just wanted to thank everyone at Metro for their hard work, specifically Wednesday's edition. I've been reading your paper every day for the last two years, and that edition was by far the best I've read yet. Every article was interesting, and the paper as a whole was really well-rounded. Keep it up!

PATRICK MCGOWN, VIA EMAIL

Intrusion is too much

Re: 'Administration defends phone record collection' (Metro, June 7-9) Thank you for reporting the government's intensive intrusion into citizens' telephone calls in the name of anti-terrorism. My response is to paraphrase Founding Father Benjamin Franklin's thoughts: Those who give up liberty for security deserve neither. Sorry, but I think it is time to repeal the Patriot Act, which apparently justifies such intrusions.

JOHN OST, VIA EMAIL

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Harvey ready to make next start

MLB. The Mets appear to have dodged a bullet in regard to their top starter.

Matt Harvey was removed from the game after speaking with Collins and the team trainer. / GETTY IMAGES

The Mets' worst fears were almost realized in Saturday's 20-inning loss to Miami as Matt Harvey had to be removed from the game with a back injury.

But the outlook was much sunnier yesterday morning as the team said they don't expect their ace phenom to miss a start due to the lower back tightness.

"Everything is fine," Harvey told reporters before yesterday's series finale. "I woke up today [and] felt good. They told me my start date is Thursday. So I'm ready to go."

Harvey left the game after warming up to start the eighth inning. Manager Terry Collins came to the mound and decided to play it safe by removing the team's 24-year-old ace. He had allowed one run and struck out six in the first seven innings.

Harvey said yesterday he had his back realigned by a team trainer, which certainly did not sound promising. But according to Harvey, he had the problem in college at the University of North Carolina and did not sound concerned.

Quoted

"It was a matter of a little alignment in the hips and as soon as I came in and they worked on it, it kind of popped right back into place."

Matt Harvey, Mets starter
On fixing Saturday's problem with his lower back

"In college it happened a couple times," Harvey said. "It hasn't happened since then. It was a quick thing. Once it was realigned, it was back to normal."

He is scheduled to make his next start on Thursday against St. Louis at Citi Field. Adam Wainwright, one of Harvey's top rivals for the start at July's All-Star Game, is scheduled to start for the Cardinals. Wainwright is 9-3 with a 2.34 ERA and 91 strikeouts in 96 innings.

Harvey is 5-0 with a 2.10 ERA and 95 strikeouts in 90 innings. He is receiving just 4.23 runs in support during his 13 starts, tied for 26th in the NL.

Fellow top prospect Zack Wheeler will reportedly join Harvey in the rotation next week when the team is in Atlanta.

MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

Marlins sweep Mets for second time

It only took 10 innings for the Mets to be humiliated by the Marlins yesterday.

New York was swept by the worst team in baseball — again — with an 8-4 loss at Citi Field. They were swept last week in Miami as well.

Bobby Parnell had his first real disastrous outing of the season, and not in a closing role. He came in to pitch the top of the 10th inning with the game tied, 4-4, and allowed four hits and three runs. He was aided in his futility on an error by Daniel Murphy, which allowed an unearned run to score. Rob Carson finished off the disaster by allowing a two-run home run to Miguel Olivo to provide the final margin.

Parnell has allowed four runs and eight hits in his last 2 1/3 innings. His ERA has risen from 1.85 to 3.04 over those three appearances.

The Mets (23-35) now have the third-worst record in the majors, ahead of only Miami (18-44) and Houston (22-42) — two teams who were picked to be historically bad.

MARK OSBORNE

By the numbers

8

Of the Marlins' 18 wins this season, eight of them are against the Mets. They are 8-3 against them in 2013.

David Wright's RBI double in the third inning went for naught. / GETTY IMAGES

Rafa rolls

Nadal wins eighth French Open title

The only person who could halt Rafael Nadal's march to his record-setting eighth French Open title turned out to be a flare-wielding protester, not David Ferrer.

Nadal beat Ferrer in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, to claim the title. He was competing in his first major since taking off seven months last year to deal with a knee injury. No person had ever won any of the four major titles eight times.

The match was stopped briefly in the second set, with Nadal serving up 5-2, when a shirtless protester ran on the court waving a lit red flare. He was dragged off by security and play was delayed by a minor fire caused by the flare. **METRO**

3 SPORTS

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Highlights of yesterday's Mets-Marlins game at **Metro.us/sports**

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McKnight aims for bigger offensive role

NFL. The athlete wants to prove he is more than a part-time player in 2013.

Joe McKnight is out to show that he can do more than just play on special teams this upcoming season. / GETTY IMAGES

After three years in the NFL as mostly a niche player, the best athlete on the Jets roster is out to prove he is a specialist no more — but not by focusing on one position. Instead, Joe McKnight is out to prove that he can excel at them all.

McKnight has earned a reputation as a special-teams maven while getting some limited snaps at running back the past three years. But for McKnight, who even played one game last year at cornerback when injuries decimated the Jets' back end, this season is about showing he can bring value all over the field.

"Every day is a new tomorrow to go out there and prove myself. But I just want to make the team better, make myself better," McKnight said. "If I do that, everything else will take care of itself. No matter the other circumstances or anything else. I have to focus on getting better every day."

McKnight has yet to register a rushing or receiving touchdown in the NFL. That might change this year, as the Jets have shifted from the "ground and pound" to an offense that seems made for him.

He possesses the kind of speed, shiftiness and hands that could make him perfect for Marty Mornhinweg's West Coast offense. It is an offense McKnight knows well from his days at USC.

In the West Coast offense, the running back needs to be versatile, which just happens to be McKnight's middle name. Generally speaking, the West Coast offense calls for timing routes and short passes to systematically open things down the field for the deep pass or out patterns.

"I feel like the more, the better. Being the best I can be is a good thing. Whatever coach wants from me, I will do it. If I can make this team [better] by helping out all over, then that is the best way to help the team," McKnight said. "Versatility on a 53-man roster is never a bad thing, and if I can help doing this, doing that — offense or special teams or defense — then I'll do it."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

Familiar names

The Jets have invited veteran free agents tight end Kellen Winslow and wide receiver Mike Sims-Walker to minicamp this week.

- Winslow played in just one game for the Patriots last season, but had 75 catches in 2011.
- Sims-Walker hasn't played since 2011 with St. Louis.

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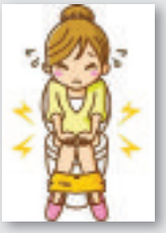

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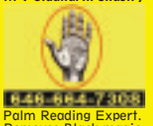

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